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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
ON THE
LIFE AND CHARACTER
OF
GEORGE W. HOUK

JULY 14, 1894-MARCH 1, 1895



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MR. GEORGE W. ADER.

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MAIN

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
ON THE
LIFE AND CHARACTER
OF
GEORGE W. HOUK
(LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM OHIO)

DELIVERED IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE,
FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

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DEATH OF GEORGE W. HOUK.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

FEBRUARY 10, 1894.

MR. OUTHWAITE. Mr. Speaker, it has become my painful duty to announce to this House the sudden death of my esteemed colleague, GEORGE W. HOUK. I do not intend at this time to make any remarks of a eulogistic character, but will merely submit the resolutions which I send to the Clerk's desk, stating that at some future period we shall ask the House to take suitable order for commemorating the life and services of the deceased.

The resolutions were read, as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, late a Representative from the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That a committee consisting of seven members of the House, with such members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to take order for superintending the funeral and to escort the remains of the deceased to their place of burial; and that the necessary expenses attending the execution of this order be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for properly carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate the foregoing resolutions to the Senate, and that as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House do now adjourn.

The resolutions were agreed to; and the Speaker named the following as the committee:

Mr. Hare, Mr. Springer, Mr. McKaig, Mr. Hulick, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Ritchie, and Mr. Ellis of Oregon.

And then, in accordance with the terms of the resolution, the House adjourned until Monday, February 12, 1894, at 12 o'clock noon.

MAY 24, 1894.

Mr. OUTHWAITE, by unanimous consent, submitted the following resolution; which was read, considered, and adopted:

Resolved, That Saturday, the 23d of June, next, beginning at 2 o'clock p. m., be set apart for eulogies on the late GEORGE W. HOUK.

JUNE 23, 1894.

Mr. OUTHWAITE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order heretofore made, setting apart this day, from the hour of 2 o'clock, for eulogies on the late Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK be changed, so that Saturday, the 7th day of July, at the same hour, shall be set apart for the same purpose.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Ohio asks unanimous consent that the special order setting apart this day, from 2 o'clock, for eulogies on the late Representative HOUK be vacated, and that Saturday, the 7th day of July, beginning at 2 o'clock, shall be set apart for the same purpose. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

JULY 6, 1894.

Mr. OUTHWAITE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order setting apart to-morrow for eulogies on the late GEORGE W. HOUK be postponed for one week.

There was no objection.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES.

JULY 14, 1894.

Mr. OUTHWAITE (at 1 o'clock and 35 minutes p. m.). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the special order fixed for to-day at 2 o'clock begin now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the absence of objection that order will be made.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the special order.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That Saturday, the 14th day of July next, beginning at 2 o'clock p. m., be set apart for eulogies on the late GEORGE W. HOUK.

Mr. OUTHWAITE. I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of the Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, late a Representative from the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his eminent abilities as a distinguished public servant, the House, at the conclusion of these memorial proceedings, shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these proceedings to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the adoption of the resolutions.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

Mr. OUTHWAITE. I now yield to my colleague, Mr. Sorg.

ADDRESS OF MR. SORG.

MR. SPEAKER: As I rise to make a tribute of respect to the memory of the late GEORGE W. HOUK my mind reverts to the evening when the people whose Representative he was, and who loved him for his personal worth, received the sad intelligence that he had passed into the shadows.

Could I now give utterance to the expressions of sympathy that welled up from the hearts of the people that night, the memory of the deceased would be embalmed in the rarest garlands. The tenderest sentiments expressed now in the choicest of rhetorical gems are inadequate to convey the sorrow felt at that moment, when the very mantle of death hung darkly over us. In the anguish of sincere grief those who had felt the influence of his friendship sent up a prayer for the soul of the dead and the comfort of his loved ones.

GEORGE W. HOUK was born in the mountains of Cumberland County, Pa., September 25, 1825. His mother was a lady of intellectual rather than romantic inclinations, and was ambitious for a more inspiring location in which to rear her children. When the youngest child, GEORGE, was but two years old the family crossed the mountains and came to Ohio, locating at Dayton, where Mr. HOUK always lived. His alertness of intellect gave him preeminence in school life. An academic training and the study of law enabled him to equip himself with such a fund of legal knowledge that he was admitted to the bar of his county when he was but twenty-one years old.

Early in life he was elected a member of the Ohio legislature, and though associated with many leading political figures, his intellect shone with an effulgence that was not dimmed by his surroundings. Despite his youth he was made chairman of the judiciary committee, which position he filled with honor to himself and credit to his county.

With the expiration of his legislative term he retired from public life and its attendant cares.

In 1856 he married happily, his wife being Miss Eliza Thurston, and in the congenial duties of his chosen profession and the quiet pleasures of a country home he looked back to his public life with no thought of regret that he had severed from it.

In 1860 Mr. HOUK was sent as a delegate to the Charleston-Baltimore convention, remaining throughout its deliberations a strong adherent of Stephen A. Douglas. In 1876 he was a delegate to the national Democratic convention held at St. Louis. In 1884 he was chosen a district elector. In 1890 he again entered public life by his election to Congress, and in 1892 he was returned by an abnormal majority.

Prior to his Congressional life he ranked as one of the leading practitioners of his State in his profession. For nineteen years he was associated with John A. McMahon, that gifted orator of the Miami. His life in Congress, though brief, as compared to the extended services of some of my distinguished colleagues, was not without feature. The bold, incisive fight made by him for the soldiers during the life of the Fifty-second Congress has endeared him to their hearts forever. The attempt to have the pension of every inmate of a soldiers' home reduced to \$5 a month will be easily recalled by those familiar with Congressional matters.

Soon after the measure was reported to the House Mr. HOUK secured a record of the disabilities of the veterans at the Home near Dayton, Ohio, and so vigorously did he combat the bill that it was defeated. For years the Government had shown grateful appreciation, and it would have been cruel and unjust in the very evening of life to cloud their last days with such evidences of ingratitude. Grateful wives and children of helpless soldiers looked upon him as their protector, and thanked Heaven for a life such as his. With the soldiers of Ohio to-day the memory of GEORGE W. HOUK stands as a monument erected by his grateful beneficiaries.

It was my pleasure to form the acquaintance of Mr. HOUK during the fall of 1890, and though the affiliation grew out of political contact, the character of the man commanded my profound admiration at once. Always manly, with a pronounced contempt for chicanery and sinister methods, he won the esteem of even those whom he opposed in political warfare. During all of his public career, in the heat of contests when the character of man is often seared before the fires of partisan animosity, there was never a chapter of his life unfolded which drew out a blush from the man who had molded it.

In personal appearance Mr. HOUK was commanding and distinguished, he having been blessed with a tall, massive form, within which were those characteristics which displayed a nature as warm as heaven's own sun rays. His cordiality of address, his warm greeting, his sympathetic and cheerful companionship made him a favorite with all. He loved his friends, and none was fonder of his home and its social environments than he was. His hospitable hearth

was a favorite rendezvous for those he loved. With an inexhaustible fund of anecdote and illustration and the grace and suavity of a polished gentleman, he entertained on these occasions as few could. Underlying every thought and expression was a vein of humor, and without him social gatherings at his home city were lacking in one of their most pleasant features. He was a vital adjunct to the very life of his native place; the bar regarded him as one of its patriarchs and pillars; his party looked to him as the nucleus of their organization, and the city honored him for his worth and integrity as a citizen.

As a scholar Mr. HOUK took rank with the foremost, and would have attained greater preeminence had his love for books been less. In later years, when the fires of youthful ambition had grown low, he buried himself in his library, and with his books he wandered back through blissful channels with his seeming friends—the authors and historians of other days. There in his home, which towered sublimely above the busy city, he feasted on the beauties of nature as presented by the panoramic scenes of the famous Miami Valley and enjoyed the fond companionship of his books.

Indeed, it has often been said that he sat in his library as contented as a civic or military hero, and viewed the selfish, remorseless struggles of mankind with the contemptuousness of a philosopher. He had a passionate fondness for poetry, philosophy, and history, and the heroic figures associated with the life of the world found him almost their worshiper. The memory of Lincoln he regarded as one of the tenderest of America's treasures, and his lecture on the life of the first martyred President was a forceful effort. As a speaker he was commanding, but his genius shone greater

as a writer. With a capacious mind replete with beautiful thoughts, and with a skillful command of language, he rounded up his sentences with fascinating beauty and euphony.

When but a mere boy he attacked the leading actors of political life, not with the diffidence of an untrained opponent, but with the skill of a veteran premier; not with the trepidation of a boy, but with the incisiveness of a finished statesman. He diagnosed the questions a few years prior and subsequent to the Mexican war, and criticised some of the Whig leaders with such effect that old Governor Anderson, of Ohio, said:

To think of a boy just out of his teens detecting the animus of that controversy and seeing the points upon which Bob Schenck and I split.

Mr. HOUK's state papers are held as the efforts of one familiar with every epoch of American history. All contemporaneous questions elicited from him opinions and criticisms which tended to mold public sentiment in his district and in other parts of the country. As a private citizen he did much for the promotion and advancement of his State. He was a member of the convention to frame for it a new constitution, and was one of the incorporators of the public library at Dayton.

When at last his political party was brought from a helpless minority in his district and he was sent to this body, he came with mature thought and experience; and conservatism rather than ostentation attended his career in Congress. His high character as a man you all know, and his integrity of purpose is seen from his attitudes on absorbing questions.

Mr. HOUK had no premonition of death.

During the morning of his last day on earth he sent to Western friends messages of that felicitation ever characteristic of him. The last week, when he was treading in the very shadows of another world, he was laboring with a tariff speech which had been well-nigh completed. On the afternoon of February 9, 1894, he left his desk with the remark that excessive labor was telling on his vitality and that he would grant himself a respite. A half hour later and the death angel had brought that decree from Heaven, and he had passed the breakers of another shore.

He died in the service of his country, rich in triumphs and good deeds, beloved by his friends and admired by his enemies; and though dead, his memory will remain as a strong, sweet perfume, forever to be cherished by those to whom he was endeared.

ADDRESS OF MR. CURTIS OF NEW YORK.

MR. SPEAKER: I rise to support the resolutions of my friend from Ohio, and to pay tribute to the memory of Judge GEORGE W. HOUK, whose acquaintance I made in the early days of the Fifty-second Congress.

In the progress of legislation I had frequent occasion to appear before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, of which Judge HOUK was a member in the Fifty-second Congress, and in presenting arguments for and against bills considered by that committee I soon learned to regard him as one whose opinions carried great weight. He gave to the members appearing before the committee patient attention, and by intelligent inquiry he sought to bring out important facts, thereby assuring them that the merits of their bills would be fully considered.

In his appearance before committees on which I served his clear and concise statement of the bills he came to advocate won the respectful consideration as well as the entire approval of their members. I found him an industrious and painstaking member in performing the work of the committee on which we both served. It was, however, in the House, in the Committee of the Whole, that he appeared best.

In running debate, or in the set speech, he disclosed a strong understanding, comprehensive knowledge, and careful research, so that he enlightened the House by his arguments, which were always clothed in words expressive, clear, and strong. He interested the House by his rich

store of information, and won its attention by his easy and graceful style, unaffected by studied ornaments of oratorical art, and was never wanting in that unfailing courtesy which characterized his intercourse with others. He was a master of correct, concise expression. His sentences were clear, his arguments direct, and all his speeches furnished convincing proof of his great learning, as shown in his remarks on all important measures before the House.

There was no member in his first term who spoke on more of the leading measures before the House or discussed them with greater vigor and intelligence than did Judge HOUK, whether it was the adoption of the rules, the silver question, the Navy, Army, Post-Office, or sundry civil appropriation bills; the rivers and harbors; the Soldiers' Home; the Columbian Exhibition; public printing; street railroads in the District; the regulation of the sale of tobacco by the producers; the statistics of the colored race and its upward progress in acquiring cultivation and wealth, or the tariff. In all his efforts he illustrated the advantages of a thorough knowledge of law. In every public effort he gave convincing proof of his intimate acquaintance with "that science which," it has been said, "does more to quicken and invigorate the understanding than all the other kinds of learning put together." He practiced law at the bar of his own State for nearly fifty years, rising to the front rank. Here he quickly came to be recognized as one of the ablest lawyers of the House.

It was not my good fortune to have known Judge HOUK in other relations than those pertaining to membership in this body, and I knew him only as I met him in committees and on the floor. Upon all the great political questions we

differed, but outside of those questions upon which parties divide I counted myself fortunate in agreeing with him, for I knew he had brought to their consideration large experience, sound judgment, and great legal acumen. He had a marked and interesting personality, a thorough acquaintance with public affairs, and a happy combination of those qualities of head and heart which made him a safe adviser, an agreeable companion, and a valued friend.

ADDRESS OF MR. BLACK OF ILLINOIS.

MR. SPEAKER: Thousands of years ago the man of Uz said, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

It was the declaration of humanity's longing for immortality. And the wisest and best of the race have never departed from the belief that this was a probationary state, and that immortality awaited those whose career here was well run.

If any other view obtained; if there was conviction that with the end of what we call life would come absolute cessation of all intellectuality and of spiritual existence; if we believed that all there was of Cæsar was in the ashes shut up in his urn; that all there was of Bonaparte was under the dome of the Invalides in Paris; if all there was of the Man of Sorrows was that which had been laid away in the sepulcher; if all that is of those we have known and loved is a clod in the valley, a handful of unrecognizable dust—such ceremonies as these we are now indulging in would be the idlest and most mocking of performances.

But as certainly as the influences of men go abroad and dwell after them, so surely it seems to me that we who are indulging in these mournful rites do so in the presence of an assemblage which has marched over the stage of human action, and which from its proper abode is observing that which we say and do here; and with that belief, what we say here of our departed companion and friend should be

truthful and wise and kind. I hardly know why I should have been designated to speak of him from among the many who have served with him longer than I have, unless it is because of the fact that our lives have been together outside of this Hall to a certain extent, and that I am able to bear some testimony of the quieter life of the man.

I met him in the busy scenes of his own city, and after that in the lovely home which has been adverted to by the gentleman who succeeded him. Occupying as it did a commanding place upon the bluffs of the Miami, from its windows and doors the city of Dayton stretches beneath, with its hundreds of industries and its teeming thousands of population, with its smoke and its roar and its ceaseless activities; and yet, although a great figure in that community, within the doors of his home it appeared as if everything was shut out except the life of the family and the man.

It seemed as though one had stepped into the sylvan abodes of the past, and that there was no envy, no contention, and no bitterness possible where he sought his retreat. A wife who loved and adored him, and children who followed him into his quiet, were there, perpetually making the music and the sunshine of happy life within his abode. And through and over it all, in its shadows and its sunshine, there was the undoubted evidence that the spirit of amity, of affection, and of mutual regard inspired the domestic life. There could be no more beautiful scene than that exhibited in the abode of the deceased.

Following him to Washington, his wife—and they were both stricken in years—dwelt with him in all of the trials and labors and triumphs of his honored service in his Congressional career. I was walking through Judiciary Square one day, and, turning one of the bends, caught sight of the

lengthening vista of a path just being shadowed from the sun by the budding foliage. At a distance that did not enable me to recognize the figures I saw a man and a woman, in lover fashion, sitting on one of the benches, too much engaged with each other to notice my approach.

As I came nearer I recognized Judge HOUK and his wife, and, jesting with them about their engagement, they told me that they had been reviving the associations, the memories, and the happiness of their youth, and were courting again as they had done before cares came and the triumphs of a public career had intervened. I went away from that place feeling that I had seen a good man and a good woman and the heads of a happy household.

Almost the last time that he spoke to me in this House was when we were discussing something of a public nature which had occurred, where the service of the Episcopal Church had been recited in part, and he said to me—and afterwards it seemed like a prophecy; we do not know why these things come into the minds of men—he said to me: “I have for twenty years omitted from my prayers that part which says, ‘Deliver us from sudden death.’ When my Master wants me I hope He will take me quickly.” I had a little talk with him as to why. He told me he thought that it was well, when a man’s work was done, that he should be called without the intervening troubles which hang about the sick bed. And yet the incident had scarcely passed from my mind when we received the sudden and shocking intelligence of the fact that in the presence of the friends of his wife and himself he had instantly fallen to rest.

What he has done, Mr. Speaker, belongs to the world. I have seen a star shoot from the firmament, “pass away to

darkle in the trackless void," and yet philosophy teaches, and it is true, that the radiance enkindled by that meteor is added to the stores of beauty and luminousness of the world, and never will pass away. The influence of a life that is spent in the service of the country, in the cause of good politics, or in the practice of true law can no more die out of existence than the enkindled radiance can pass the confines of the universe.

Some one sent me the other day a little bit of poetry, one of those gems called "Pearls of the Faith," which Edwin Arnold, in studying the literature of the oriental nations, has written into the enduring form of our poetry and given to the world. It has the formulation of some of the best thoughts of that great and dusky race whose myriad millions pass as grains of sand with scarce a permanent figure in all the years, and yet which grains of sand are making up the continents of humanity upon which beat the long, rolling, ceaseless waves of time; and it seems to me in the study of the quiet, loving life of GEORGE W. HOUK, and in his quick departure to other spheres, you find this consolation, the consolation of the far-away seer and of all the loving and hoping world:

One morning in Medinah walked our Lord
 Among the tombs: glad was the dawn, and broad
 On headstones and on footstones sunshine lay;
 Earth seemed so fair 't was hard to be away.
 "O people of the grave!" Mohammed said,
 "Peace be with you! Your caravan of dead
 Hath passed the defile, and we living ones
 Forget what men ye were, of whom the sons,
 And what your merchandise and where ye went;
 But Allah knows these things! Be ye content
 Since Allah is 'aware.' Ah! God forgive
 Those that are dead and us who briefly live."

ADDRESS OF MR. MCKAIG.

MR. SPEAKER: To the members of the House the intelligence of the death of the late distinguished gentleman from Ohio came like a flash of lightning out of a clear sky, as it occurred but a few hours after he left his seat apparently in good health and spirits. I met him at the east door as he was leaving the House, and received a kindly nod and a pleasant smile in response to my salutation, and in an exceedingly brief period of time the news of his sudden demise came as a striking commentary upon the instability of human life.

An eloquent Senator, who died with equal suddenness, in a memorial address upon a deceased colleague, said:

When those of us who have been here for a series of years bring to our minds the many occasions when we have been called upon to pay the last tribute of esteem and affection to brethren who have fallen by the wayside, we may well pause and consider whether the ends which we pursue here or in other fields of activity are worth the toil, energy, and anxiety which we contribute to them, especially when even the largest successes bring transient satisfaction, and the joy of triumph and eagerness of struggling controversy are alike ended with sudden extinguishment.

Although I feel that I can add nothing to the wealth of eulogy paid to our deceased associate, my long acquaintance with and warm friendship for him urge me to pay a brief tribute to his memory.

I first met him during the winter of 1865, when visiting my relations in Dayton, Ohio, where he was a member of the law firm of Houk & McMahon, and even then a prominent figure in the legal and political circles of the county and State. My association with him at that time enabled

me to discern and appreciate not only his genial social qualities and generous, affectionate nature, but also the strong mental powers that enabled him to occupy a commanding position in his Congressional district, which could boast of such men as Vallandigham, Gunckel, Schenck, McMahon, and Campbell.

The salient features of his personality were his clear sense of right, his hatred of all shams, his simplicity and candor, fidelity to every obligation, and his strong common sense. A marked characteristic was his kind thoughtfulness to the younger men of the legal profession and a ready appreciation of the many difficulties they had to overcome in struggling up the ladder of life, and they could always rely upon his ready and efficient aid when difficulty overtook them.

Combined with marked legal ability were scholarly attainments and interests that led him to indulge as a pastime in the broad fields of literature and journalism.

Mr. HOUK was born in Cumberland County, Pa., September 25, 1825, but his father moved to Dayton, Ohio, in 1827; so his life from early youth was closely identified with the social, commercial, and political interests of his adopted city and State. From the time he taught school, studied law, and formed a partnership with his preceptor, Peter P. Lowe, in 1846, until he entered the Fifty-second Congress, his life was full of activity. In 1852-53 he was elected to the State legislature from Montgomery County, and as a testimonial to his legal ability he was selected as chairman of the judiciary committee, although a young member serving his first term.

His party, recognizing his unswerving Democracy, sent him as a delegate to the celebrated Charleston-Baltimore

Democratic national convention, where he was an ardent supporter of Mr. Douglas for the Presidency. He was unanimously nominated for the circuit judgeship for the second district, but was defeated. His love for the beautiful city in which he spent his life and won legal and political honors was strong and abiding, and he always had its welfare at heart. Prominent in the councils of his party, he never neglected an opportunity to advance the material interests of his State and county through legislative avenues, and was never such a partisan that he was willing to aid or abet political action that might result in party advantage and yet work a detriment to the State.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that I could not better discharge my duty to our dead colleague in this behalf than to incorporate in my remarks the eloquent and beautiful memorial address of the members of the bar of Montgomery County, of which he was an honored member:

The members of the bar of Montgomery County, assembled to do honor to the memory of their deceased brother, HON. GEORGE W. HOUK, with melancholy pleasure place upon record this brief summary of his life, with their sincere testimony to his talents as a lawyer, his integrity in public life, his exalted character as a citizen, and his genial qualities as a man and companion.

It is unfortunate that on this occasion we shall sadly miss the ready and glowing pen that has recorded, on so many similar occasions, for so many others the story of their lives and the sympathy of their fellow-members of the bar. But our accomplished friend is dead, and to inferior hands the sad but pleasing task must be committed.

It is pleasant to be able to say with truth that from his early youth to his latest manhood Mr. HOUK was in every way a model for young men. He was always moral, upright, temperate, and honorable in his conduct; so much so that in a long and active life slander never temporarily perched upon his name, nor did partisan rancor ever breathe a suspicion upon his honesty or his motives or the purity of his life.

Blessed by nature with a commanding form and a most striking presence, he looked, as he was in fact, one of nature's noblemen. In this outward garb of manly beauty there was inclosed a strong intellect, a genial heart, and an unbounded love of beauty, culture, and knowledge that would have made him one of the foremost

men of our country had his ambition been as restless and as eager as his capacity was great. But ambition seemed to have few charms. He loved above all other things his lovely and hospitable home upon the hilltop, and the wife and children and grandchildren by whom he was there surrounded, and to whom he was a most devoted, indulgent, and affectionate husband and father, and the numerous friends in whose society he always delighted; and his rugged physical and intellectual vigor never sought that field for display in his earlier days that would have given him his proper stand among his fellow-men.

No doubt his life was happier. But much may have been lost to his country. There were few men better read in the history of the world, better versed in the Constitution of our nation, or fuller of the knowledge of its political events, or more studious of their philosophical bearing. And still fewer men possessed the rare gift of expression upon paper that would have advanced him at once to the front rank of literary eminence had he chosen that field. He did not love his profession as some men do, although for many years he was a steady worker in it, and he had a wide, varied, successful, and honorable practice. He was not fond of the narrow rules and apparent technicalities of a jurisprudence largely built upon established and sometimes contradictory precedents and sometimes at variance with our instincts of natural justice. He often felt fettered in his search for what was right and just by the arbitrary decision of a system instead of the resolution of what was just in the case before him. And the most loyal among us can not but admit that we sometimes share in his feeling.

The law was only a secondary mistress with our friend. It is true she kept his house. But literature adorned, embellished, and inhabited it as his prime favorite. He loved philosophy, history, literature, and poetry with a fervent love, as his well-selected and well-thumbed library plainly shows, and his wonderful talent and passion for developing his own ideas with a pen that was remarkable for its attractive and gorgeous style found but little vent in the preparation of petitions, answers, or stately and formal briefs. Yet he possessed the qualities that would have made him a great lawyer, if that had been the inclination of his mind. He was logical, he was just, and he was of even temperament and possessed of a well-balanced mind. His judgment was always good. He knew by intuition what was right. But with all these qualifications, we all know that if the pursuit of the law is only a duty and not a pleasure the brightest intellect will fail to reach the highest culture.

Mr. HOUK's great delight was in his home. Few men in active life have spent so many years in the bosom of their family. He loved to spend his hours in his library, surrounded by his loving and gifted wife and children; and in the midst of those dumb yet speaking companions of all ages and nations who rested upon the shelves of his bookcase, inviting him to constant communion with their lofty souls, and never tiring of his congenial society, he would look down upon our smoky and restless city, and its tireless schemes of vanity and ambition, with the dignity and almost the contempt of a philosopher.

Such a life, with such surroundings, could not but leave a stamp upon his character. It emphasized the qualities that he already possessed. It made him

contemplative and strengthened the balance of his mind. It gave him time for self-inspection and room for thought before action. In his partial retirement he cultivated all the good qualities with which he entered upon life. He was incapable of a mean, dishonest, or doubtful action, and he especially despised such conduct in all others. He became independent in thought and action; so much so as to dissent, in a marked manner, upon several notable occasions from the majority of his political friends. He was always outspoken, and when meanness or trickery or dishonesty crossed his path, whether at the bar or in politics or in private life, his tongue was ready to expose or denounce it.

But it is as a brother at the bar and a daily companion and friend that we who knew him the best love most to remember him. He did not seek popularity with the methods of the handshaker, or "mixer," as he is styled by his admirers; and to those who think this insincere outgrowth of modern politics the ideal of a warm-hearted man, he might seem cold or haughty. But with those who were congenial, or with whom he was thrown by business or pleasure, he was a most genial and entertaining companion. His fund of anecdote, whether of the higher character of biography or the ordinary, now so popular, was unlimited and ever ready, and he was scarcely equaled in the narration of what was witty and humorous. His own pleasure was as great as that of the listener; and while many of us may best recall him in the different scenes of life, all of us can see him now with his hale, hearty manner, and his joyous laugh, full of life and life's enjoyment, as if care had never laid her heavy hand upon his head, and existence was in itself the sum of happiness.

When the time and opportunity came for him to be promoted to the halls of the National Council—too tardily, it is true—it is no wonder that his friends, without regard to politics, rejoiced that in his declining years he should be honored in a manner so pleasing to himself and so satisfactory to his friends and constituents. He appreciated and enjoyed the honor most heartily.

The most striking feature in his service in Washington was his devotion to the interests of the pensioners at the Home at a time when his care for them could not but be disinterested. There grew up among the inmates of that institution an affection for him that was touching, and it is a lasting monument to perpetuate, as an element of his character, that his sympathy was with the poor and the needy, or the unfortunate, and that his regard for the brave defenders of the nation was not actuated by interest, but by the goodness of his heart.

Mr. Speaker, the leisure hours of his life being devoted to general study, his mind necessarily became broadened and in touch with the great world that lies outside of the limits of a professional life. This, together with travel, fostered the social side of his nature.

He built a commodious residence on a splendid elevation overlooking the beautiful city of Dayton and commanding

a striking view of a part of the rich and famous Miami Valley, where, surrounded by his children and grandchildren, he could cultivate his domestic and social tastes. Here he delighted to retire and indulge in his favorite occupation—writing and studying ; however, never unmindful of his hosts of friends, who always found the latchstring of his door ready for their touch, and to whom he ever gave a warm and appreciative welcome.

Although beyond the prime of life when he entered the Fifty-second Congress, in December, 1891, he took up the duties belonging to the high position and discharged them with fidelity and efficiency. He was constant in his attendance upon the sessions of the House, and was uniformly present at committee meetings, and never in any way permitted personal action to delay the public business. He took an active part in the debates upon leading questions before the House, and at all times seemed to feel a strong interest in the routine business of the session when the pending work frequently failed through lack of a quorum.

A grateful constituency, fully appreciating his diligent, painstaking, and efficient work in the Fifty-second Congress, gave substantial recognition of the same by reelecting him to the Fifty-third Congress by a largely increased majority.

Stricken at his post of duty by an enemy which never yet was conquered, our late associate surrendered in obedience to the dictates of an inscrutable Providence, and his spirit passed across the silent river.

Mr. Speaker, when his mortal remains were conveyed to his native city for interment a great concourse of citizens met the train at the station and accompanied the body to the church, which was beautifully draped in mourning, and

where the solemn services were witnessed by hundreds of mourners. Great crowds of people thronged the streets as the funeral cortege moved from the church to the cemetery, striving in every way to make known the high esteem in which they held their late honored Representative. He was buried at a point in the cemetery not far distant from his beloved home and overlooking the city he loved so much, and the last solemn burial rites were performed amid thousands of sorrowing friends.

As an eminent Senator said of a deceased associate :

He has departed. His term has not expired, but his name has been stricken from the rolls of the House; his credentials remain in its archives, but an honored successor sits unchallenged in his place. He has no vote or voice, but the consideration of great measures affecting the interests of every citizen of the Republic is interrupted with the concurrence and approval of all, that the Representatives of forty-four Commonwealths may rehearse the virtues and commemorate the career of an associate who is beyond the reach of praise or censure, in the kingdom of the dead.

Can we not rest in the belief that after a life well spent, with its duties faithfully performed, the soul of our deceased associate has at last found eternal rest amid the scenes of its creation, in the presence of its God, for hath He not said, "He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

ADDRESS OF MR. BRYAN.

MR. SPEAKER: GEORGE W. HOUK was my friend, and though no words of mine can add peace to his ashes or sweetness to his sleep, I beg to place on record my tribute of affection and esteem. He was one of the first members of the Fifty-second Congress whom I met after my own election, and the acquaintance which we formed while crossing Lake Superior together in the summer of 1891 ripened into an attachment which I enjoyed during his life and which I cherish in memory now.

He was a well-rounded man—one of the most complete men I ever knew. Some are specialists and excel in a particular line of work, or become famous because of some faculty abnormally developed. Not so with Mr. HOUK. He was not a one-sided man, nor a man with but one idea or one virtue. He so blended graces and good qualities, so combined the traits and characteristics which distinguish men as to be worthy of Antony's compliment to Brutus:

His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, "This was a man!"

He found his inspiration at his fireside, and approached the ideal in his domestic life. He and his faithful wife, who was both his helpmeet and companion, inhabited as tenants in common that sacred spot called home, and needed no court to define their relative rights and duties. The invisible walls which shut in that home and shut out all else had their foundations upon the earth and their battlements in the skies. No force could break them down,

no poisoned arrows could cross their top, and at the gates thereof love and confidence stood ever upon guard.

In such a home the devoted parents reared a loving and dutiful family, and lived to see each son and daughter settled in life; and fortune had so smiled upon the children that the father was as far removed from anxious care concerning them as his beautiful estate, Runnymede, overlooking the Miami Valley, was removed from the noise and turmoil of the busy city with whose history his achievements were entwined. He did not leave to his children that doubtful blessing, a large fortune, but he left that priceless heritage which money can not buy—a name without a stain, a reputation without a blemish.

He was a man of surpassing geniality, and his cheerful face shed its radiance on all around him. It was my good fortune to sit by him during both terms of Congress, and I learned to look for the friendly salutation with which he greeted me every morning. He was a boon companion, and allowed no humor to escape him. He abounded in wise proverbs, in stories and in fables, and in all the affairs of life mingled with an artist's skill the lively colors with the grave.

He was, perhaps, not a great lawyer, in the sense of winning national reputation at the bar, and yet he had a legal mind and the habits of a practitioner. He clearly comprehended the principles involved in a case, weighed evidence, and balanced with more than ordinary skill the arguments on either side. He knew not only the law, but the reason thereof; and if he did not outstrip his competitors in forensic contests, he possessed the sturdy virtues which won and retained the confidence of the community and a prominent place at the bar.

He was a scholar, and a writer of rare ability; in fact many, charmed with his graceful sentences and ornate style, have believed that this was his special gift. He was an omnivorous reader, and possessed the bee's instinct of finding the honey in the flower. One is amazed at the amount of writing and public speaking which he did, and at the facility with which he grasped every subject and analyzed every question. His mind, like the refiner's fire, separated the pure metal from the dross. It is not strange that such a man should be in frequent demand, for his active interest in all public questions, the high esteem in which he was held, his methods of thought and felicity of expression, all combined to fit him for a prominent place in his community.

With him citizenship was a sacred trust as well as a privilege, and in the discharge of its responsibilities he exercised the most conscientious care. He was a politician in the sense that he was a student of the science of government, and a successful legislator in that he wrought into effective law the principles in which he believed. He possessed all the characteristics of the statesman. He reasoned out each proposition that came before him with a singleness of purpose and a desire to know the right.

He was industrious. Not only did he study all public questions, but he responded to every call made by individual constituents, and did it gladly, for he was himself one of the common people, and his sympathy went out to all who were in need. Ever in his place, ever ready for work, he gave to the public service the full measure of his devotion.

He was honest, both with himself and with others. Not only was he incorruptible so far as pecuniary influences go,

but he was true to his own convictions. His fidelity to others was insured by strict adherence to the injunction—

To thine ownself be true;
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

He was a brave man, and dared to follow his own judgment, even when it led him into disagreement with his party associates. His moral courage was developed to a high degree, and he was willing to assume responsibility for his every act, conscious of the rectitude of his purpose. His ability was recognized by his associates in Congress, and his opinions, based upon extensive research and wide experience, illuminated and ornamented by quotations from history, fiction, and poetry, were sought after more and more as men knew him better.

His life was one long journey upward, without a halt or backward step. His success was not meteoric; he won his way step by step, and pitched his tent on higher ground at the end of each day's travel. For more than sixty-five years his home was at Dayton, Ohio. There he attended school, taught school, read law, and practiced at the bar. There he spent the days of his boyhood and manhood, and there, after he had almost completed his three-score years and ten, he rests from his labors. The sorrowing multitudes who attended his funeral testified as no language can to the character of the man. Their expressions of tenderness and affection and their gentle ministrations fitly crowned the career which they had watched with pride and love. Truly, "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

I will not believe that even now his light is extinguished. If the Father deigns to touch with divine power the cold and

pulseless heart of the buried acorn, and make it to burst forth from its prison walls, will He leave neglected in the earth the soul of man, who was made in the image of his Creator? If He stoops to give to the rosebush, whose withered blossoms float upon the breeze, the sweet assurance of another springtime, will He withhold the words of hope from the sons of men when the frosts of winter come? If matter, mute and inanimate, though changed by the forces of nature into a multitude of forms, can never die, will the imperial spirit of man suffer annihilation after it has paid a brief visit, like a royal guest, to this tenement of clay?

Rather let us believe that He who in His apparent prodigality wastes not the raindrop, the blade of grass, or the evening's sighing zephyr, but makes them all to carry out His eternal plans, has given immortality to the mortal, and gathered to himself the generous spirit of our friend.

Instead of mourning, let us look up and address him in the words of the poet:

Thy day has come, not gone;
Thy sun has risen, not set;
Thy life is now beyond
The reach of death or change,
Not ended—but begun.
O noble soul! O gentle heart! Hail, and farewell.

ADDRESS OF MR. STORER.

MR. SPEAKER: In the death of Mr. HOUK the State that you and I honor and love so much has lost as its Representative here one of those men in whose hands its prosperity was sure and its reputation always safe. It has lost a good lawyer, a man who had a reputation equal to that of the ablest on the bench; it has lost a wise, conservative, and courageous representative; and it has lost an honest, Christian gentleman as its citizen. Judge HOUK was one of the few of my colleagues when I came here in the Fifty-second Congress whom I had known before.

When I was but a boy at the bar in Hamilton County he and his firm were towers of strength in that part of the State, which, without conceit, we consider to be the garden spot, both for soil and in intellect and jurisprudence, of the State of Ohio. The firm of Houk & McMahon, twice honored by seats in this House of Representatives, was the leading practicing firm in the whole Miami Valley. It was confined in its practice not to one county or to one Congressional district. I have seen them both, even looked at them with wonder and delight, practicing before my own home courts; and I felt that I was at home in Congress and in the committee to which I was assigned when I found Judge HOUK was there too.

I sat with him in committee, knowing him as fellow-committeemen in Congress do know their associates; and I say, in my judgment he was as wise, as judicious, as conservative, as courteous, and as courageous a man as ever

sat in that committee, whose history is second to none in this House. The estimation in which he was held in that committee I think everyone I see will unite in. I trust I remember aright, in saying that he and I never differed on any question of any moment that ever came up there, and many times have we conferred, being both from the same State, on matters outside of the committee room. The estimation in which he is held by his comrades on that committee may best be shown, Mr. Speaker, by the resolutions which were unanimously adopted by that committee, copied upon its minutes, and which I am requested to offer to this House to have read at the desk, so that they may be made a part of my remarks and become a part of the permanent record of this day's proceedings.

The Clerk read as follows:

Your committee appointed to prepare a suitable memorial in honor of the memory of the late GEORGE W. HOUK, of Ohio, late a member of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, respectfully report the following:

We, the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-third Congress, have heard with deep regret the announcement of the death of our associate, Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, of Ohio.

Pursuant to action of this committee heretofore taken it is hereby

Resolved, That this memorial be entered on the minutes as a mark of enduring respect to the memory of a courteous associate, whose character, abilities, and devotion to his duties on the committee have earned for him the respect of his associates, while his kindness of manner and of heart have inspired them with personal regard and affection, and as a tribute to a distinguished and laborious Representative, an upright and God-fearing gentleman whose death has been a lasting loss to his fellow-members in this committee and the House, to his constituents whom he served justly and faithfully, and to his country.

And further resolved, That this memorial and resolutions be reported from this committee by its chairman to the House on the day set apart by special order for eulogies on Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, in order that they may form a part of the permanent record of the proceedings on that occasion.

MR. STORER. Mr. Speaker, the career of Judge HOUK is not one that has struck this House with its wonderful eloquence and its control of the floor and with its command in

the business of the House. But none of us who remember the few occasions upon which he addressed this House or the Committee of the Whole—I hope none of us, at least—but remember the dignity of his thought, the precision and elegance of his language, and the courage of his opinions. We all know at times he differed from the majority of his own party. I also know that no man believed more thoroughly in the principles of his party or was more convinced they were the ones which should control this Government than he.

Though I have felt that I could not agree with him, feeling that the principles of the party to which I belong are those which should fitly govern this country, nevertheless I can not let this occasion pass without bearing my testimony to the honesty and courage with which he always supported the convictions of his heart, the principles of his party, and the course of that party whenever he thought it coincident with those principles.

His district lay close to mine. We were neighbors in the real sense of the term. That district, sir, as you know as well as I, is one that has marked characteristics. It is one of the individual districts of our State. It has been represented here with almost unequalled strength during the last twenty-five or thirty years. It has had as its Representative General Schenck; it has had Judge Houk's own law partner, the peer of any man at the Ohio bar, John McMahon; it has had James E. Campbell; and it has had Judge Houk. And I say that in conservative thought, in integrity of purpose, in solidity of character, in fidelity to convictions of truth, that district has never been better or more strongly represented on this floor than it was in the person of him whose death we are now deploring.

ADDRESS OF MR. LAYTON.

MR. SPEAKER: "In the midst of life we are in death."

Never was the reality of these solemn and oft-repeated words more sorrowfully exemplified and impressed upon my mind than when, on the morning of the 9th of February last, the startling information was communicated to me that my beloved colleague and old friend, GEORGE W. HOUK, late a member of this House from the Third Ohio Congressional district, had been suddenly stricken down by that grim destroyer Death, from whose embrace there is no escape; for it was but about three hours—something less, perhaps—before this most sudden and unexpected blow that took him from among us forever that I saw him pass out of this Hall smiling and nodding pleasantly to me as he passed by, as was his wont, whenever and wherever he chanced to meet me. He appeared to be in his usual good health and spirits, and hence little did I dream that in less than three short hours this world should know him no more forever.

I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. HOUK, not intimately but fairly well, for several years. He was indeed a man among men, always dignified, yet always affable and pleasant. He was from principle a true and sincere Democrat in politics.

But it was not so much my purpose to-day, Mr. Speaker, to occupy the time of the House in endeavoring to pay a feeble personal tribute to the memory of our departed friend as it was to place upon record and call attention

to just how he was regarded at home by those who had known him long and well during his whole life as neighbor, lawyer, and statesman, knowing full well that their opinions, spontaneously expressed, will much more fully impress your minds than anything I could or might say.

And to this end I will first call your attention to an article published in one of the leading newspapers (of opposite politics) of his beloved city of Dayton, under date of February 10 last, being the next morning after the news of his untimely death had reached the city:

Last evening the citizens were startled and shocked at the report that the Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, representing the Third district in Congress, had died suddenly in Washington while on his way from the Capitol to his home on Connecticut avenue. At first the news was received with doubt, but about half past 7 the Journal confirmed the news by communicating with Washington. The rumor, which sadly turned out to be too true, had spread through the city, and a number of the deceased's friends congregated at the Journal office to have the report confirmed and to learn the details of the sad death.

In the hotels and at the Dayton Club groups of gentlemen stood about discussing the news and recalling the splendid qualities of the deceased Congressman.

The large family connection were informed later in the evening directly, the wife telegraphing the sad news of her sudden bereavement. His loss will cast a gloom over them that will not easily be dispelled.

The portly, erect figure, genial face, and graceful, gallant manner of Mr. HOUK were familiar to every Daytonian, and there were none but who enjoyed his presence and associations. At the time of his decease he was serving his second term in Congress, sent from the Third district. He has lived in this city, or just without its limits, since 1827.

His delightful home, Ruinymede, has long been the synonym for hospitality and for all that is beautiful and delightful.

Here he used to hasten as soon as he could close his law office on Third street, where he found the secluded, restful place where he spent the happiest hours of his life, retrospecting, reading, and digesting the various thoughts that occupied his mind continually.

His home commanded a most superb view of the city, and on an immense veranda he was accustomed to sit, or lie in his hammock, watching the sun sink down into the Miami in the western distance, and the smoke of the busy furnaces partially clouding the city give way to the gloaming. The lights begin to sparkle and the stars to shine—a restful, happy period in which any troubles of the day which had annoyed him gave way to his innate love for mankind. In those hours

his mind carefully weighed both sides of all questions, and the next day he could return to the busy scenes of city life with that genial urbanity and universal courtesy which were so characteristic of him.

He loved to read, to study history, and follow pastoral pursuits. Nothing delighted him so much as a tramp over the farm, watching the development of his crops and the increasing of his herds. Amid such pleasant home scenes as these he reared the splendid family which he now leaves to sorrow.

In politics the deceased was allied heart and soul with the principles of the Democratic party, though he put aside his love of party if he saw his duty clear to oppose its movements. This he demonstrated in a signal manner when he repudiated the late Hon. Samuel J. Tilden.

The Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK was born in 1825, in Cumberland County, Pa., of which his father, Adam Houk, was a native, and his grandfather, Adam Houk, sr., became a resident about the middle of the last century.

In 1827 Mr. Adam Houk moved to Dayton with his family, and GEORGE was educated in the schools here, finishing his school education at the Dayton Academy, under the instruction of the late E. E. Barney. He selected the profession of law, of which he became such a distinguished member.

He studied in the office of Peter P. Lowe, esq., and when admitted to the bar, in 1847, went into partnership with his instructor. A year or so after he dissolved this partnership he entered into partnership with the Hon. George B. Holt. Later, in 1860, he formed a partnership with the Hon. John A. McMahon, which lasted twenty years, ceasing in 1880, since which time he has conducted his practice by himself.

In 1852 Mr. HOUK was sent to the legislature, though only twenty-seven years old. He was distinguished by being made chairman of the judiciary committee, through which passed all the important legislation necessary to conform the laws of the State to the new constitution.

He was sent in 1860 to the Democratic convention, which was held in Charleston, at which Stephen A. Douglas was nominated. In 1876 he was sent to the St. Louis convention, at which Samuel J. Tilden was nominated, and whose nomination he could not sustain.

On December 25, 1856, Mr. HOUK married Eliza P. Thurston, the daughter of Robert A. Thurston, and granddaughter of Horatio G. Phillips. She is also the sister of Gen. Gates P. Thurston, of Nashville, Tenn. The lives of these two people have been particularly beautiful, and the deep sympathy of everyone goes out spontaneously to the stricken wife from whom he has so suddenly been called.

He leaves three children—Mrs. Harry E. Mead, Mrs. Harry Talbot, and Mr. Thurston Houk—and nine grandchildren. Mr. David Houk, of South Ludlow street, is his brother. Mrs. Mary Ramsey was his sister. Mrs. John G. Lowe, of South Maine street, the widow of the late John G. Lowe, is the mother of his wife.

In literary attainments the deceased was a writer of fine, forcible, elegant English, and in this had few superiors. Through much and careful reading he

had stored in his mind a fund of information upon which he could call at all times to the benefit of his hearers and readers. He contributed much to the press, and his articles were read with more than general interest. He was for a time the editor of the *Morning Times* of this city, but his genial nature rather rebelled against the rough contact with the world that this duty often forced upon him. The hours, also, which the editor of a morning newspaper must spend at his office were those which Mr. HOUK most loved at his Runnymede; so he gave up this pursuit. However, since his busy life in politics, he has often contributed articles on the questions of the day that clearly expressed his convictions and those of his party. He contributed to the magazines occasionally, and wrote the history of the Dayton bar.

He was a forcible speaker, and eloquent. He preferred at all times to talk on topics of vital interest to his hearers, and avoided speechmaking for the sake of making a speech.

At all times he was a graceful, agreeable gentleman, genial and gallant.

In the history of the city of Dayton there is the following paragraph:

"The Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK has attained distinction through his literary labors and acquirements as well as in his profession of the law. His literary labors, however, have been performed mainly for the sake of diversion and of pleasure derived therefrom rather than for the sake of gain or fame, and what he has achieved in this kind of labor has not been done at the expense of the legal profession."

Within the last few years Mr. HOUK conceived an ambition for political honors, and expressed the desire to be sent to Congress from this district. The first nomination resulted in defeat, Mr. H. L. Morey, of Hamilton, being sent by the Republican party.

Two years later, at Franklin, Mr. HOUK was renominated in a most enthusiastic manner, a great many of his personal friends who had never taken any interest in politics going in a body to that convention to give personal testimony to their confidence in and respect for the candidate. It was a spirited convention, but Mr. HOUK was handsomely nominated, and at the election which followed received a big majority. Two years subsequent Mr. HOUK was again a candidate, and was nominated without opposition, the Hon. John A. McMahon presenting his name in the strongest terms at Hamilton.

At the election in the fall of 1892 he went through with a sweeping majority, and was one of the members of this Congress, whose political complexion is so overwhelmingly in accord with his own convictions.

The many questions of great interest to the country which have come up during his connection with Congress were all carefully investigated by him, and he was thoroughly informed on every side of each.

Those opposed to him politically may have objected strongly to his vote on different questions, but none have ever thought that he ever voted but at the dictate of his conscience and in the absolute belief that his convictions were based on that which was right and proper.

And as of a more impressive character still I will next invite your attention to an eloquent and just tribute to his

worth and character, written and published on the same day in the same journal by his old friend and neighbor, Maj. W. D. Bickham, who, by the way, was himself suddenly stricken down by the cold hand of Death within a few days thereafter, much in the same manner as his friend Mr. HOUK, prefacing it by stating, as indicated in the article, that Mr. Bickham was of opposite politics:

The startling intelligence came to this office yesterday afternoon of the sudden death at Washington of Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, Representative in Congress from this Congressional district.

It is needless to say that the woeful news caused widespread and sincere sorrow among all the acquaintances of Mr. HOUK, of whatever age, sect, or political party they might be.

Mr. HOUK was a man among men, a gentleman of the old school, of splendid character, fine personal presence, dignified bearing, noble sentiments, and warm affections. He was the very soul of honor; and during his long professional and political life in this city and vicinity, and as our representative in the legislature and in Congress, he was never charged with or even suspected of any unmanly or dishonorable conduct. He thoroughly hated and despised falsehood and pretense, and regardless of political or personal consequences never hesitated to so declare himself upon all occasions that seemed to demand it.

This paper has had occasion many times to criticise Mr. HOUK's political expressions and votes, but never his personal conduct. Indeed, during all the years of our political differences, which sometimes were very warmly discussed in public, Mr. HOUK and the editor of the Journal have been upon the best personal relations.

He was a man to tie to under all circumstances; solicitous of the public welfare as he understood its needs; ready with his pen and voice, both of which were able and far above the average, for every good word and work; a public-spirited citizen in the fullest and best sense of that term.

His mind, like his face and forehead, was broad and high, rather than sharp and cunning.

Though an able lawyer and a pleasing and eloquent public speaker, his forte was probably with his pen. He wrote with great readiness and ease and had a natural instinct for euphony and harmony in his use of words.

There was always a lofty character about his language that commanded attention and admiration, and he had a way of rounding out his sentences with a majestic sweep, like the essays of Macaulay.

If he had devoted his life to literature instead of the law, Mr. HOUK would undoubtedly have been upon the list of prominent American writers.

No man in Dayton was more versatile and adaptable. He could make a speech, try a case, write an essay, relate an anecdote, or enter into the lighter pleasures of a social circle with zeal and success.

By the bar he was universally respected. On all memorial occasions he was an active and sincere participant, and by common consent was selected as the proper person to draft resolutions and make an address. In such duties he seemed to take a melancholy pleasure, and his zeal and interest were not measured by the social or professional prominence of the subject of his pen.

In fact his legal brethren declare that the most carefully prepared and beautiful tribute that he ever wrote was upon the occasion of the death of one of the humblest members of the bar; a man of indifferent success in life, so far as the world views success, but greatly beloved among his fellows for his modesty and sincerity of life.

To some Mr. HOUK appeared haughty and unapproachable. But no man was more affable or genuinely democratic in his feelings.

He was always ready to listen to the story of a pensioner or to lend a helping hand to any worthy man of his acquaintance. He was a man of large heart, cultivated mind, generous spirit, and noble impulses, and he will long be missed and sincerely mourned in this community.

Mr. Speaker, from the time Mr. HOUK arrived at years of manhood until he entered Congress he was an able, active, honorable lawyer, enjoying a large and lucrative practice, and held the respect and confidence of all the members of the bar with whom he was thrown in contact. But let them speak for themselves.

I now read to you the proceedings of the Montgomery County Bar Association, of which he was an old and honored member, at a meeting held on the morning of February 17 last:

A largely attended meeting of the Montgomery County Bar Association was held in Judge Elliott's room yesterday morning, at which final action was taken relative to the death of Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK. Judge Elliott presided, and Charles W. Dustin, esq., acted as secretary.

The committee appointed to draft memorial resolutions submitted its report, pending the adoption of which touching and eloquent remarks eulogistic of the life and character of the deceased were made by a number of the members. These were Hon. L. B. Gunckel, Cyrus H. Baldwin, Elihu Thompson, O. M. Gottschall, John M. Sprigg, Hon. Wickliffe Belville, George R. Young, E. P. Matthews, Hon. John A. McMahon, Judge Dennis Dwyer, and Henderson Elliott. Following is the memorial:

"The members of the bar of Montgomery County, assembled to do honor to the memory of their deceased brother, Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, with melancholy

pleasure place upon record this brief summary of his life, with their sincere testimony to his talents as a lawyer, his integrity in public life, his exalted character as a citizen, and his genial qualities as a man and companion.

"It is unfortunate that on this occasion we shall sadly miss the ready and glowing pen that has recorded on so many similar occasions for so many others the story of their lives and the sympathy of their fellow-members of the bar. But our accomplished friend is dead, and to inferior hands the sad but pleasing task must be committed.

"Mr. HOUK was born in Cumberland County, Pa., on the 25th of September, 1825. His family removed to Dayton in 1827, where his home has always been. He was educated at the academy at Dayton, taught school, studied law, and was admitted to the bar of this county when he was but twenty one years of age. He then entered into partnership with Hon. Peter P. Lowe in the practice of law. After a few years of successful practice, he was elected to the legislature in 1851, and, though a very young man, was made chairman of the judiciary committee of the house. In 1860 he was a delegate to the Charleston-Baltimore convention, adhering most loyally to the cause of Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, and in 1876 he was a delegate to the national Democratic convention, held in St. Louis. In 1884 he was chosen district elector, and in 1890 he was elected to Congress, and reelected in 1892.

"He was a candidate upon many other occasions for high honors, when he failed of success only because his party was in a hopeless minority.

"During all the time preceding his election to Congress he was actively engaged in the practice of the profession, and for nineteen years was a member of the firm of Houk & McMahon.

"It is pleasant to be able to say with truth that from his early youth to his latest manhood Mr. HOUK was in every way a model for young men. He was always moral, upright, temperate, and honorable in his conduct; so much so, that in a long and active life slander never temporarily perched upon his name, nor did partisan rancor ever breathe a suspicion upon his honesty or his motives or the purity of his life.

"Blessed by nature with a commanding form and a most striking presence, he looked, as he was in fact, one of nature's noblemen. In this outward garb of manly beauty there was inclosed a strong intellect, a genial heart, and an unbounded love of beauty, culture, and knowledge that would have made him one of the foremost men of our country had his ambition been as restless and as eager as his capacity was great. But ambition seemed to have few charms. He loved above all other things his lovely and hospitable home upon the hilltop, and the wife and children and grandchildren by whom he was there surrounded, and to whom he was a most devoted, indulgent, and affectionate husband and father, and the numerous friends in whose society he always delighted; and his rugged physical and intellectual vigor never sought that field for display in his earlier days that would have given him his proper stand among his fellow-men. No doubt his life was happier. But much may have been lost to his country.

"There were few men better read in the history of the world, better versed in the Constitution of our nation, or fuller of the knowledge of its political events, or

more studious of their philosophical bearing. And still fewer men possessed the rare gift of expression upon paper that would have advanced him at once to the front rank of literary eminence had he chosen that field. He did not love his profession as some men do, although for many years he was a steady worker in it, and had a wide, varied, successful, and honorable practice. He was not fond of the narrow rules and apparent technicalities of a jurisprudence largely built upon established and sometimes contradictory precedents, and sometimes at variance with our instincts of natural justice.

"He often felt fettered in his search for what was right and just by the arbitrary decision of a system, instead of the resolution of what was just in the case before him. And the most loyal among us can not but admit that we sometimes share in his feeling. The law was only a secondary mistress with our friend. It is true she kept his house. But literature adorned, embellished, and inhabited it as his prime favorite. He loved philosophy, history, literature, and poetry with fervent love, as his well-selected and well-thumbed library plainly shows, and his wonderful talent and passion for developing his own ideas with a pen that was remarkable for its attractive and gorgeous style found but little vent in the preparation of petitions, answers, or stately and formal briefs. Yet he possessed the qualities that would have made him a great lawyer, if that had been the inclination of his mind.

"He was logical, he was just, and he was of even temperament and possessed of a well-balanced mind.

"His judgment was always good. He knew by intuition what was right. But with all these qualifications, we all know that if the pursuit of the law is only a duty and not a pleasure the brightest intellect will fail to reach the highest culture.

"Mr. HOUK's great delight was in his home. Few men in active life have spent so many years in the bosom of their family. He loved to spend his hours in his library, surrounded by his loving and gifted wife and children; and in the midst of those dumb yet speaking companions of all ages and nations who rested upon the shelves of his bookcase, inviting him to constant communion with their lofty souls, and never tiring of his congenial society, he would look down upon our smoky and restless city, and its tireless schemes of vanity and ambition, with the dignity and almost the contempt of a philosopher.

"Such a life, with such surroundings, could not but leave a stamp upon his character. It emphasized the qualities that he already possessed. It made him contemplative and strengthened the balance of his mind. It gave him time for self-inspection and room for thought before action. In his partial retirement he cultivated all the good qualities with which he entered upon life. He was incapable of a mean, dishonest, or doubtful action; and he equally despised such conduct in all others. He became independent in thought and action; so much so as to dissent in a marked manner upon several notable occasions from the majority of his political friends. He was always outspoken, and when meanness or trickery or dishonesty crossed his path, whether at the bar or in politics or in private life, his tongue was ready to expose or denounce it.

"But it is as a brother at the bar and a daily companion and friend that we who knew him best love most to remember him. He did not seek popularity with the methods of the handshaker, or "mixer," as he is styled by his admirers; and to those who think this insincere outgrowth of modern politics the ideal of a warm-hearted man he might seem cold or haughty. But with those who were congenial, or with whom he was thrown by business or pleasure, he was a most genial and entertaining companion. His fund of anecdote, whether of the higher character of biography or the ordinary, now so popular, was unlimited and ever ready, and he was scarcely equaled in the narration of what was witty and humorous. His own pleasure was as great as that of the listener, and while many of us may best recall him in the different scenes of life, all of us can see him now with his hale, hearty manner and his joyous laugh, full of life and of life's enjoyment, as if care had never laid her heavy hand upon his head, and existence was in itself the sum of happiness.

"When the time and opportunity came for him to be promoted to the halls of the national councils—too tardily, it is true—it is no wonder that his friends, without regard to politics, rejoiced that in his declining years he should be honored in a manner so pleasing to himself and so satisfactory to his friends and constituents. He appreciated and enjoyed the honor heartily.

"The most striking feature in his service in Washington was his devotion to the interest of the pensioners at the Home at a time when his care for them could not but be disinterested. There grew up among the inmates of that institution an affection for him that was touching; and it is a lasting monument to perpetuate, as an element of his character, that his sympathy was with the poor and the needy or the unfortunate, and that his regard for the brave defenders of the nation was not actuated by interest, but by the goodness of his heart.

"The committee submit the following resolutions:

"*Resolved*, That in the death of Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK the bar has lost an able, upright, and cultured member; the State a conscientious and faithful legislator; our people an honorable, high-toned, and valuable member of community; his associates a warm-hearted, genial friend, and his family a devoted, indulgent, and affectionate husband and father, to whom we tender our profoundest sympathy."

"*Resolved*, That the judges of the court be requested to place this memorial upon the minutes of the court, and that a copy be transmitted to his family."

"Respectfully submitted.

"JOHN A. McMAHON,

"WARREN MUNGER,

"E. THOMPSON,

"THOMAS CORWIN,

"JAMES H. BAGGOTT,

"Committee."

The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned.

Mr. HOUK was the ever-faithful and devoted friend of the Union soldier, and the news of his death was received at

the Soldiers' Home (located near Dayton, in his district) with genuine and widespread feelings of sorrow and regret. And here I will let the old soldiers speak for themselves also:

William Lowell Putnam Command, No. 24, Union Veterans' Union, of the Soldiers' Home, held a meeting in the Grand Army of the Republic hall, and took action relative to the death of their friend, comrade, and benefactor, the Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK. The following resolutions were adopted:

"*Resolved*, That William Lowell Putnam Command, Union Veterans' Union, has heard with profound sorrow of the death of their honored comrade, GEORGE W. HOUK, who was stricken down in the midst of a useful life; and, as a mark of respect to his memory—

"*Resolved*, That it extends to his afflicted family its sincere sympathy in their bereavement, and that the adjutant of the command be instructed to transmit to the family of the deceased a certified copy of the foregoing resolution; and be it further

"*Resolved*, That as an additional mark of respect members of the command and all other veterans be requested to pay the last sad tribute to his memory by following the remains to their last earthly resting place.

"*Resolved*, That in the death of the Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK the veterans of the Soldiers' Home have lost their warmest friend, and one who has always advocated their cause wisely and persistently, and with a moderation that always carried with it a conviction of the justness of their claims."

As a further evidence of the high esteem in which he was held by those who knew him best I may mention the fact that the city council, which was in session at the time the news of his sudden death reached the city, immediately appointed a committee of their number to draft appropriate resolutions of regret, which were unanimously adopted, followed by the adjournment of the council out of respect to his memory.

But what more need be said, Mr. Speaker, in addition to all this of the life and character of our departed colleague? Surely nothing, save perhaps that we, his fellow-members, those of us at least who knew him best, do most sincerely unite with his neighbors and constituents in bearing like testimony to his goodness and worth.

We also bear witness with them to his generous qualities and genial character, which made him popular here as well as at home. For nearly three years he was a useful and distinguished member of this body, serving with painstaking care and promptitude as a member of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and of the Committee on Pensions. He was always found at his post, prompt, careful, and conscientious in the discharge of his official duties. With them, his friends, his neighbors and constituents, we bear witness that in his death this House and the country sustained the loss of a most valuable and useful member. And with them we most sincerely mourn his loss, with the earnest hope and belief that our late colleague is now at rest in that better land.

ADDRESS OF MR. RITCHIE.

MR. SPEAKER: In Ohio, where the greater portion of his life was spent, our late colleague, Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, stood high in the esteem of his fellows. He possessed the reputation of being an honorable, amiable, and affable man. By this reputation I knew him well for years; but it was not until the closing day of the Fifty-second Congress, of which he was a worthy member, that I formed with him a personal acquaintance, which soon ripened into a friendly intimacy, that was as instructive as it was pleasant and as lasting as it was strong. At the commencement of the present Congress, new member as I was, and wholly untutored as to the practice and the rules of its procedure, the necessity oft arose to seek information from others who were older and more experienced than myself.

In all the membership of this House no one possessed upon such matters a richer mine of knowledge, or imparted it to others with more generous accuracy, than did the gentleman to whose memory to-day we gladly, though sadly, pay our unworthy tribute of reverence and of love. In this body there are two classes of members. There are those, first, who deem it not only proper, but necessary, to address the House upon every subject that comes before Congress for its consideration, and with them the more trivial the matter under discussion the greater the necessity for talk.

There is still another class, who prefer to listen to others rather than to talk themselves, and who, by silent devotion to duty and by indefatigable labor on committees, fashion

pending legislation into law. To the first class belong the so-called "record-makers," but the other class embrace the real lawmakers of the land. While the former too often talk without thinking, the latter generally think without talking. To this latter class belonged our late colleague from Ohio.

While the Congressional Record may not shine resplendent with brilliant orations delivered by him, his constant attendance upon the House, his arduous labors upon committees, his fidelity to his people, and the correctness of his votes as cast speak far more eloquently in his behalf than could any mere empty words he might have uttered.

Mr. HOUK was an excellent lawyer, and before he became a member of this House practiced his chosen profession at Dayton, Ohio, with an ability and zeal that gave him high rank at his local bar. He practiced law upon the plane of honor. He used none of the law's quiddits, nor its tricks. He cared not for the withered branches of technicality, but chopped rather at the very root of a legal proposition that, in his judgment, was unsound. If I were asked what traits of character most predominated in him, it would be difficult to answer. He was generous and kind, yet steadfast and firm. While he had respect and toleration for the opinions of others, he still possessed those of his own. These he formed himself by his own methods of reasoning, and, having done so, these opinions became convictions, which he dared express with the fearlessness of a knight.

In all my intercourse with him I never heard him speak a single unkind word of a fellow-member, for "his tongue was chained except in praise." Hypocrisy, insincerity, and sham were foreign to his nature. Simplicity of manner

and naturalness of character possessed him, for he followed no pattern. He was himself, alone. In his social life he was a prince. That he was popular here is evidenced by the many tributes of respect that have been paid to his memory to-day. That he was popular at home was shown by the thousands of people who followed his dust to the silent tomb. Let his epitaph, in golden, glittering characters, proclaim of him that he was a loving husband, an indulgent father, a wise legislator, a faithful friend, a good lawyer, and an honest man.

Hail, and farewell!

ADDRESS OF MR. BAKER OF KANSAS.

MR. SPEAKER: It is said that some men are born great, that some have greatness thrust upon them, while others by their individual efforts carve out their own destiny.

The latter seems to have been true of Judge HOWE.

I have been assigned the privilege of bringing my garland and placing it upon the tablet to his memory.

We entered upon our duties on the floor of this House at the same time, and as we took the oath of office we realized that we were entering upon new duties—duties which carried with them grave responsibilities.

Both born in the same State, of a hardy and earnest pioneer stock, while he was surrounded by and reared under different influences from myself, I could see in his outgrowth and development the sturdy and inflexible will of the early pioneer of Pennsylvania. With such a character the call of duty was one to be implicitly obeyed.

As our acquaintance began with the commencement of the Fifty-second Congress, I shall speak of him as I knew him in our committee room, and as he revealed his character to me as a member of this House.

I found that on many questions there was a great diversity of opinion between us; those differences I soon learned were differences of convictions. It became evident to my mind that he was a man of very strong character, possessing a philosophical mind, and seeking to establish every truth by a course of logical reasoning.

As in life through our social intercourse we learn to respect our friends, so in death let us cherish their memories and keep ever in mind their good deeds.

We are like the waves upon the seashore; we come and we go; we are here to-day, we may be on the other shore to-morrow.

The present only is ours. How soon we may be called to realize the mystery of the life beyond no one can tell.

Before the sun of life sets for us let us strive to do some deed that will make the world the wiser and the better for our having lived in it.

The mystery of life is not yet unfolded to any of us, but we are turning over leaf by leaf the book of life from day to day, and sooner or later the end will come, and we will be consigned to our narrow home; but ere the volume of life closes to us let us strive to live so that we may have a brighter awakening in the world beyond.

Like the giant oak, man has a small beginning; but, unlike the oak, he has a great mission to perform in the battle of life. His mission is as broad as humanity itself; it is to lift up, and not tear down. We sow that others may reap. If it is true, as has been said, that every thought and act reveals the character of an individual, it is ours to know the motives that actuate the man. His nobility of character is seen in his endeavor to elevate society, in broadening the sphere of human action, in teaching by precept and example our duties to the state and to humanity.

Mr. Speaker, in Judge Houk's death the nation has lost a loyal public servant, one who possessed rugged honesty of purpose, was modest and unostentatious, broad-minded, and yet who never posed for display or effect. To me he seemed, while quiet in demeanor, straightforward in action. I regarded him as a man who would submit to no dictation, one who would acknowledge no master.

As I see him now in my mind, plowing his way up the rugged hill of science in his academic course, we see him possessed of those higher ambitions which lead to great attainments in life.

Scarcely has he completed his academic course until we find him engaged in the profession of teaching; but his mind seemed to grasp far broader fields of thought. He turned his attention to law, entering upon that profession at the age of twenty-one.

At the age of twenty-seven he entered upon his duties as a legislator in the State of Ohio, and, although so young, we find he was made chairman of the judiciary committee of the house.

When we examine his history as an individual, whether as a schoolboy, a student at law, as a legislator, or as a member of this House, we see the same inflexible purpose.

His history shows that with age he grew in the confidence of his constituents.

He may not have been a polished scholar, but I regarded him as a deep thinker.

In the rugged school of practical life his mind seemed to expand with age, which well fitted him for his new sphere of action in the political arena. He seemed to possess an unusual degree of strong common sense. In my intercourse with him I found him a strong partisan, but it was with him the outgrowth of positive conviction.

His patriotism was not bounded by State lines. He possessed the courage of his convictions in all places and under all circumstances.

He seemed to possess in a preeminent degree faith in his own party; and yet at times we see him rise above all party

considerations, and act in a way that he conceived to be for the good of all the people regardless of party.

Perhaps no member of this House drank deeper at the fountain of Democracy in his early youth than did Judge HOUK.

He was not a dreamer, but an actor in the drama of life; and, owing to his age and full manly development, he was one of the most striking links between the mighty past and the living present.

His loyalty to his party and friends was not momentary, but enduring.

The people love a man whom they can trust; such a man was Judge HOUK. A conviction to him was a living truth.

While I could not always agree with him, I did admire his sincerity and honesty of purpose.

In his death Ohio has lost an able and a faithful servant.

ADDRESS OF MR. SPRINGER.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not attempt a biographical sketch of the life and character of GEORGE W. HOUK. Others better qualified by long personal acquaintance will point out the special incidents and acts in his life. My acquaintance with him began with his election to the Fifty-second Congress. On one occasion I had the pleasure of enjoying the hospitality of his home. It is the home life of one that most marks and illustrates personal characteristics. Mr. HOUK'S residence was two or three miles from the business center of the city of Dayton, which is the most beautiful city in the Miami Valley. At this point the upper plateau spreads out for two or three miles on either side of the river. The plains are level and the soil is rich, and highly cultivated farms and gardens are spread out on every hand.

Skirting this fertile plain are the high hills which form the outer banks of the river and separate the valley from the uplands. Mr. HOUK selected one of these hills, overlooking the city, as the place of his homestead. Many of the original forest trees are still preserved. Beautiful walks and drives have been laid out, and a plain but substantial building has been erected as the family residence. A large covered porch was built upon the side of the house overlooking the city. The view from this porch was one of rare beauty, and presented a landscape full of interest and fascination. Below lay the busy city. The tall chimneys, rising like monuments, pointed out the location of the great manufacturing institutions which have contributed so much to the wealth of the State and which furnish employment to so many people.

The tall spires of the churches indicate a high state of Christian civilization, and the broad and fertile plains, covered with farms and gardens, give assurance that ample food supplies are near at hand. On a distant elevation was located the National Home for Disabled Soldiers, erected and supported by the National Government. The buildings accommodate with all home comforts from three to four thousand veterans of the late war, and the grounds are ornamented and kept in a manner which reflects credit upon the Government, and rival in magnificence the historic parks of the Old World.

It was this city, this valley and scene, which were spread out to the view of those who visited Mr. HOUK's residence. He was accustomed, at the close of each day's work, to repair to his home, take his seat on this porch, and enjoy this beautiful panorama. His family vied with each other to contribute to his comfort and happiness. His was indeed a happy home, comprising within it all the rest, quiet, and comfort of the country and all the luxury and elegance of the city. This charming home life contributed greatly to the molding of his character, and especially fitted him for the career of usefulness and honor for which he was distinguished.

As a lawyer he was painstaking, studious, and faithful to the interests of his clients. He was not brilliant, but he was forceful in manner and strong in argument. As a legislator he was constantly at his post, fearless in the discharge of every duty, and always able and conscientious. As a member of the Committee on the World's Columbian Exposition in the last Congress he contributed greatly to the legislation which rendered that great enterprise a success, and the people of Illinois and of the whole country

will forever hold him in grateful remembrance for his valuable services in this matter. As a citizen he was ever awake to the interests of the people, and in all respects acquitted himself as an able defender of the rights of the humble, and as an ardent advocate of the supremacy of the law. As a friend he was ever true, faithful, and honorable. When his purpose was formed he adhered to it with tenacity, and never faltered in fealty. He was one of nature's noblemen, and his loss is deplored by all who knew him.

I was one of those appointed to accompany his remains to his home, and I performed this sad duty as one who follows to the grave a near and dear friend. The services at the grave were the most impressive that I have ever witnessed. When the funeral dirge was chanted one of his daughters, the wife of a prominent citizen, joined in the singing. Her voice was lifted far above the voices of all others, and her face was illumined with such a halo of light that it seemed as if we were listening to the voice of an angel coming from above.

Before the last sad rite was performed his faithful and beloved wife addressed a few words to those assembled at the tomb. She did not appear as one stricken with grief, leaning on the arm of a relative and convulsed with anguish; but she stood erect, with her face upturned to heaven, and assured those present that to her there was no such thing as death. That which seemed to many a dreaded monster was to her a welcome messenger to summon to a higher and better state of perpetual existence. Her faith took hold on immortality. She believed implicitly, and carried that belief into practical consolation, that what we call death was

but a summons from earthly cares to heavenly bliss. She could see beyond the tomb; could with her eye of faith pierce the veil that separates us from the world to come, and see the spirits of the departed enjoying the felicities of a home in heaven.

The members of this House have in his death lost a most useful coworker, his State has lost one of her best and most distinguished citizens, and his wife has lost a faithful husband and his children a kind and indulgent father.

ADDRESS OF MR. HARE.

MR. SPEAKER: GEORGE W. HOUK was a man whom to know was to admire and esteem. Although he had passed the sixty-ninth milestone in the journey of life, time had dealt so kindly with him that he did not even in appearance seem old, and the exuberance of his health and the keenness of his enjoyment of the companionship of his fellow-men made him always a welcome associate in every circle he chose to join.

His naturally genial disposition had not been soured by the experiences of a long and active career in a profession which perhaps more than any other affords opportunity for frequent insight into the meaner phases of human character and brings its members into frequent contact with the baser motives that too often constitute the springs of human conduct.

With all these exhibitions of character, motive, and conduct he was undoubtedly familiar, as every lawyer must become whose practice has extended over a period of more than forty years; but instead of making him at all misanthropic or distrustful of mankind these very experiences seemed to render him more charitable in his judgments, readier to palliate the offenses of others, more careful to see that he did not himself offend.

Accustomed as he was to deal with serious problems and to consider questions of grave importance, these were not permitted to engross his thoughts to such an extent as to render him unobservant of or oblivious to the lighter and

brighter incidents which go so far to relieve the professional life of the lawyer from what would otherwise be an exceedingly somber and unattractive coloring. On the contrary, these were incidents and features of his experience which he treasured most, and from a seemingly inexhaustible fund of anecdote and reminiscence he was able to draw at will for the embellishment of an argument or the entertainment and pleasure of his friends.

He was a man of serene disposition and temperament, always taking the most cheerful view of a perplexing or discouraging situation, and capable of imparting to his associates the influence of the philosophy which so thoroughly dominated and controlled his own actions. Hence he was seldom confused as to the policy to be pursued in an emergency; his impulses were under the constant restraint of his judgment, and even the edicts of the caucus had but little effect in controlling his course when he had once determined for himself what his duty required him to do.

He was not, in the ordinary sense of the word, a politician; but in the broader, better, and truer sense of the term his title to that distinction was beyond question. He believed that "he serves his party best who serves his country best," and that party organization, discipline, and methods are only valuable as agencies for the recognition and the establishment of certain principles of government through certain policies of legislation and administration.

The Democratic party, more nearly than any other, represented the essential political principles in which he believed; and so, always reserving to himself the exercise of the right of individual judgment, he became and remained a faithful adherent of that party, and in the councils of this

body during his comparatively brief membership here he was one of its wisest, most intelligent, and prudent counselors, a thoughtful, sagacious, and trusted champion of the interests committed to his charge.

At the age of twenty-six years he became a member of the general assembly of Ohio, and by reason of his recognized ability, learning, and fitness was made chairman of the judiciary committee of that body, which position he held during the period immediately following the adoption of the present constitution of Ohio, and while that instrument was receiving its original interpretation and construction at the hands of a supreme court of which Allen G. Thurman and Rufus P. Ranney were members, one of the ablest courts that ever adorned the bench of any State.

That so distinguished an honor should have been conferred upon so young a man must be accepted as evidence not only of his high character and sterling worth, but of the recognition by those who knew him of the exceptional talents and sound learning afterwards exhibited by him during his long career at a bar as eminent as any in the United States.

He was not merely a successful lawyer, but a scholarly one; not simply the trained advocate and inquisitor familiar with the methods of the courts and the details of judicial procedure, but a diligent student, not alone of books, but of men, finding in the one not merely an unfailing source of recreation and entertainment, but the means of pursuing with added zest the absorbing study of the other, and both contributed to make him what he was—the broad-minded, conscientious, painstaking legislator and lawyer, the patriotic, public-spirited citizen, the capable man of affairs, the

wise statesman, the entertaining and instructive companion, and the loyal, unselfish, and unfaltering friend.

Naturally such a man would become the idol of his own household, and his beautiful home overlooking the city of Dayton, and surrounded by the equally attractive homes of his children, bore evidence of his love for those to whom he represented so much of all they were accustomed to love and revere.

To that home and the idols that were templed there his thoughts were almost constantly recurring. It had been prepared, with all the care he could bestow, to become the retreat of his old age, as it had been the scene of his labors and enjoyments during the later years of his active business life; and to that end he had not only embellished it with whatever could add to its attractiveness and comfort in a physical sense, but he had assembled in its library, as his permanent guests, the kindred spirits with whom he had been accustomed to commune and whose companionship had been to him a solace and an inspiration from youth. He loved to talk of his home, he longed to return to it, and it is exceedingly doubtful whether he could have been persuaded again to leave it, unless in response to a most imperative call of public duty.

During his service here he was never obtrusive. He seldom occupied the time of the House, and never did so unless the occasion was such as to require an expression of his views upon a matter of pending legislation. But he was at all times keenly alert to whatever was transpiring upon the floor or in the committee rooms, and no man could have been more attentive to the interests of his constituents.

The largest soldiers' home in the United States is located in his district, and his attention to the welfare and interests

of the inmates of that great institution was incessant and unfailing. No comrade could have been more solicitous in behalf of his companions than he was in guarding the rights of this class of his constituents, the great majority of whom were his political opponents, but all of whom, I believe, were his personal friends. If they were not so the fault was not his, for no proposition that he believed might even remotely prejudice their interests was ever suffered by him to pass unchallenged.

He was a man of commanding presence and apparently in the enjoyment of robust health, destined to many years of usefulness. I parted from him on this floor only a few hours before his death, the news of which came to all of us as a surprise and was received with expressions of incredulity and amazement, but proved, alas, too true. The strong man had fallen, the firm grasp which he had seemed to have upon life had been suddenly loosened, and without other preparation than every man should at all times have he had been summoned to stand in the presence of the King of all kingdoms.

On the following day, upon the announcement of his death, this House took such action as is customary and appropriate. Every token of sorrow for his death and of respect for his memory was manifested by his late associates, an unusual number of whom accompanied his body to its place of sepulture near the home where he would doubtless have preferred to die; and then the stream resumed its course, members again became intent upon the problems that daily challenge attention here, and all that remained of our brother was the impress he had made and left upon all who knew him.

When the circumstances of his own death are recalled I am reminded strongly of the brief but beautiful address delivered by him in this Hall the day when tributes were being paid to the late Governor Warwick, in the course of which, speaking of the changes so frequently wrought in the membership of this House by death, he said:

How forcibly are we reminded, by this ever-shifting scene, of the sublime apothegm of Burke, uttered by that great orator when, during a speech on the hustings, he was informed of the sudden death of his competitor. He at once cut short his speech, gathered up his papers, and exclaimed with touching pathos: "What shadows we are, and what shadows we pursue!"

The address delivered by Judge HOUK on that occasion was evidently unwritten and extemporaneous, and that this illustration, so singularly appropriate to be recalled to-day, should have occurred to him, may serve to prove that he was not wholly without warning of the peril in which he was even then standing and which he was not long to escape. But whether so or not is of small moment when we reflect how impotent must be every device of man to guard himself against the fate reserved for all the living. He has paid the debt so many are struggling to postpone, and whatever may have been his frailties or his faults, he has left behind him the record of a life filled with good deeds; to his surviving associates the recollections of an intercourse always agreeable and instructive; to his family the memory of a loving and indulgent husband and father; to his country the lasting benefit of the devotion of a faithful public servant.

May he rest in peace.

ADDRESS OF MR. RICHARDS.

MR. SPEAKER: That eloquent and pathetic sentence, "In the midst of life we are in death," has been abundantly illustrated in this House during the last year. One of my first duties was as a member of a committee to go to a neighboring State and assist in paying the last sad tribute of respect to a fellow-member, and from time to time our ranks have been thinned, two falling from my own State.

Statistics prove that the average length of human life is increasing, but not the average life of a member of Congress. This is not merely because many advanced in years or in feeble health are elected, for during the past year we have buried some who were men of vigorous constitution and robust health at the beginning of their term of service, and only a few days ago was buried one of the youngest members of the House.

We have had no epidemic among us, nor has contagion depleted our number. Our duties and requirements are not conducive to longevity. The faithful member, whether in his temporary home in this city or in his real home in his own State, finds his work a constant grind.

GEORGE W. HOUK, to whose memory we to-day pay tribute, was a man of the people. He carried with him no traditions of superior ancestry, boasted no descent from some important personage, but was content that he was an American citizen from the rank and file; proud that he lived in a land where opportunity is afforded to even the humblest to carve his way to exalted station.

As school-teacher, lawyer, statesman, he ever sustained himself with credit, bearing evidence of a well-balanced mind that weighed well and, having considered, had capacity to act. No egotism marked his intercourse with his fellow-men, but he was as modest as he was learned, as considerate as he was earnest.

He was not beset by vanity, and there was nothing dreamy or extravagant about him. He did not spring to his feet to speak upon every occasion, but carefully and calmly went about his work. He studied every question and voted upon it intelligently; and when he arose to speak there were no fanatical outpourings, no effort to convince by loud declamation, but his logical arguments showed that he had mastered his subject.

To him the chief office of a member was not how often his name might appear in the Record or be printed in some newspaper, but how he could best serve his constituents and his country by a careful performance of duty according to convictions born of earnest study.

With such Representatives as he in Congress legislation can never be prostrated by the arts and influences of demagogues, but will be guided by that cardinal principle, "The greatest good to the greatest number."

We are facing a peculiar epoch in our history; a feeling of discontent is creeping over our hills and along our valleys, breeding in some instances lawlessness and crime.

The worshipers of Mammon are increasing, and too often the man of millions takes precedence over the patriot of brains. The arrogance of men who live in luxury sometimes drives the poor to almost desperate measures; and while the law must be respected and enforced and the

rights of property protected, it is our duty to ever keep in view the cardinal principle of the great Declaration, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created free and equal." This is the keystone which supports the very fabric of our Government, which itself is supported by constitutional liberty, and which will be protected by Representatives whose hearts beat for the great masses of our people; and such a one was he to whose memory we to-day pay tribute.

ADDRESS OF MR. DONOVAN.

MR. SPEAKER: When the sable and unwelcome messenger, Death, served the summons of Heaven's high chancery on GEORGE W. HOUK he made no plea to the jurisdiction. No pretense or excuse of mortal avails to alter the decree of Him who speaks worlds into existence and to whom a thousand years are as a day. In the exalted plan of creation it is as necessary that men die as that they be born, but it is only the apathetic disciple of Zeno who does not feel the pangs of poignant sorrow when an associate and friend unexpectedly departs from a life of usefulness and honor.

It was my good fortune to be personally well acquainted with our deceased colleague, although I did not know him prior to his coming here as a member of this House, which was contemporaneous with mine.

MR. HOUK was born in Cumberland County, Pa., September 25, 1825. He moved to Ohio while very young, and settled with his father at Dayton, which city was his home at the time of his death. He encountered the obstacles and surmounted the difficulties which beset the pedagogue, the law student, and the young attorney. He was admitted to the bar at the age of twenty-one, and made the practice of the law the work of his life. He was a proficient, earnest, and successful lawyer, and took such an active interest in public affairs that he was elected as a member of the Ohio legislature in 1852, in which body his ability was fittingly recognized, as evidenced by his appointment as chairman of the judiciary committee of the house.

By his sincerity, courage, and ability he had won and retained the confidence and esteem of his party associates, who proved their appreciation of the high qualities of his mind and heart by selecting him to fill many important places of trust and honor. I served with him on one of the committees of this House, and at a meeting of that committee held two days prior to his death he seemed to be in excellent health and spirits; and although his years were nearly three-score and ten, none of us who met and conversed with him at that meeting thought that he, with his majestic bearing and magnificent physique, would be called so soon to pay his tribute to the King of Terrors.

The victories of William the Conqueror and of all the other sovereigns of the English dynasties, from Egbert to the present, are mere bagatelles compared with the ravaging conquests of this arch enemy of life; but as a man is not omniscient, who can say that death is not a disguised blessing, by which we are translated to the regions of the immortal, where paradisiacal pleasures are omniprevalent and sorrow is unknown.

The progress and invention of this age are marvelous, but with all our astonishing discoveries and all our phenomenal progress, our efforts to make human life perpetual are as futile and as evanescent in their results as were the efforts of Ponce de Leon in his search for the fountain of youth.

We can whisper across the sea and converse with the inhabitants of other continents, but we have no telephone communication with the grave. We can measure correctly the distances of the planets and describe minutely their every motion, but we can not trace the flight of the departing soul.

In coming years, long after they shall have passed from earth, we can reproduce the voices of our friends and the sermons and speeches of our preachers and statesmen, but nature will exhaust herself in vain to produce a mortal with genius to discover media by which communication could be established with those beyond the tomb.

We may illuminate the world with arc lights and incandescent lamps, but we can not make a search light to penetrate the least perceptible distance into the darkness of the mystery of death. In spite of the futility of human effort and the inconsequence of any mortal, GEORGE W. HOUK did not live in vain. He carved out of hard conditions a monument to his memory of which his family and his friends may well be proud, and set an example which the youth of this favored land may well afford to emulate.

He is dead, but his good works and their beneficent influence will never die, but will be appreciated and remembered by the beneficiaries of his kind acts and good example, who will ever bear witness that the world is better for his having lived.

ADDRESS OF MR. PATTERSON.

MR. SPEAKER: The late GEORGE W. HOUK and I entered Congress at the same time, and were assigned to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Our daily official intercourse on that committee soon ripened into personal friendship. I have met no man in public life who has impressed me as possessing more sterling qualities of head and heart. Leaving to others who knew him longer than I did to speak of his personal history and the felicity of his social and domestic life, I desire to call attention to one or two characteristics of his public career that reflected honor on him while living, and which are worthy of emulation by those who live after him. He was in the fullest acceptance of the term an honest man.

I do not mean that he was merely honest in the sense that he avoided wrongdoing. I mean that he had an honest mind, and courageously did his duty on all occasions according to the lights before him. He had none of the instincts of a demagogue or a time-server. If he believed a measure to be right, and that it would result beneficially to the country, he had the courage to advocate and support it, without regard to its effect on his personal fortunes; and if he believed it to be wrong and hurtful in its results to the country, he would oppose it, notwithstanding in doing so he might run counter to a misguided public sentiment in its favor.

A man of education, a student of books, and an observer of current events, he possessed varied information, and was thoroughly trained for the public service. Thus equipped

and endowed, he necessarily took high rank among his associates. Modest and unobtrusive, it required time and opportunity to know him at his worth. It was in the committee room where legislation is considered and perfected that he appeared to the greatest advantage. The highest meed of praise that can be bestowed on the memory of any man is to say that when living he was most respected and loved by those who knew him best, and this can truthfully be said of our lamented friend.

He possessed another quality in a preeminent degree. He was a patriot. He loved his country and his whole country. Its history, its traditions, and its achievements were all familiar to him and swelled his bosom with pride. He contemplated its future growth and development with enthusiasm. I do not recall that he ever addressed the House when his country was not his theme. He was a robust American. No "pent-up Utica" contracted his patriotic aspirations. Neither faction nor section had attractions for him. It required his country and every part of his country to fill the measure of his patriotism. He loved American institutions as an inestimable heritage from a patriotic ancestry, and guarded the Constitution which vouchsafed them to posterity as the Israelites guarded the ark of the covenant.

The stalwart patriotism of such a man is worthy of comment and emulation in these latter days when Americanism is dimmed and discredited by the propagation of ideas which have been transplanted from foreign countries to our shores. It is the example of such men as GEORGE W. HOUK which gives assurance of a broader, a deeper, and a more enduring national life, and justifies the belief

that we are approaching a period of national glory when sectional pride and differences will no longer exist, when the enemies of social order and good government will nowhere be tolerated, and the Republic, its flag, and its institutions will everywhere be cherished by the American people as the title to happiness and prosperity.

ADDRESS OF MR. WILSON OF OHIO.

MR. SPEAKER: My limited acquaintance with GEORGE W. HOUK does not qualify me to speak of him except in relation to his professional and public life. Ever since I have been a practicing lawyer I have had some knowledge of Mr. HOUK, who was an attorney residing in the city of Dayton, in Montgomery County, Ohio. His reputation as a lawyer and a citizen was not limited to his immediate locality. There were few men more highly esteemed than he for devotion to truth. He was free from the cunning and trickery which are sometimes the principal weapons of successful lawyers.

The fact that Mr. HOUK was able to achieve a very high standing at the bar of Montgomery County is proof of his ability and perseverance. He was a member of the general assembly from Montgomery County in 1853, and was three times the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Third district, and was twice elected.

The city of Dayton is located in the beautiful and fertile valley of the Great Miami River. Long before the organization of the State of Ohio the Indians had settled in the Miami Valley, and because of the superior advantages of that locality they long resisted all efforts of the whites to invade their territory. But eventually the superior civilization of the white race in its westward course overcame the obstacles interposed by the Indians, and the rich valley became the abode of a very intelligent and enterprising people. Some of the most talented representative men of this country resided in the city of Dayton.

It was here that Hon. Clement L. Vallandigham lived, and from which place he was sent to Congress. It is scarcely necessary to mention the characteristics of this great Democratic leader, especially during the exciting period of the war. He was the champion of that faction of Ohio Democrats who were opposed to a vigorous prosecution of the war for the suppression of the rebellion. He was arrested, tried, and convicted by court-martial, and sentenced to imprisonment during the war; but Mr. Lincoln commuted his sentence to banishment into the enemy's lines. Notwithstanding his opposition during the war, Mr. Vallandigham was one of the first to declare in favor of accepting the validity of all the amendments to the Constitution. Having made a determined fight against the policy of Mr. Lincoln during the war, he had that independence of character which made it easy for him to acknowledge defeat and frankly recognize the duty of all people to accept the results as conclusive of the issues involved in the war.

From the city of Dayton also came to Congress another of Ohio's greatest public men—Hon. Robert C. Schenck. I think I shall not transcend the truth when I say that it is doubtful if any district was ever represented in Congress by an abler man than General Schenck. He was a Republican, and took part in the debates during the reconstruction period, displaying great thought and statesmanship.

In the county of Montgomery, near the city of Dayton, is located the Central Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. It is the largest of its kind in the world. Here the disabled and helpless veterans of the wars of the Union are provided with food, clothing, and shelter. The inmates of that institution are a part of the

constituency of the district represented by GEORGE W. HOUK.

Mr. Speaker, I have referred to the foregoing facts for the purpose of affording some information concerning the people whom Mr. HOUK had the honor to represent; and I think I may safely say that Mr. HOUK was well qualified to represent that district, and fully sustained himself as one of the most efficient and useful members of Congress. He was always conservative and safe. He seldom took part in debate, but when he spoke his remarks were clear and candid. He was a careful listener and a good judge of the merits of all measures. He was not disposed to follow extremists of his own party beyond the bounds of reason and justice; and when party dictation compelled him to yield support to doubtful measures he did it reluctantly and with regret.

In my personal relations with Mr. HOUK I found him to be possessed of the qualities and demeanor of a gentleman. He was inclined to be quiet and unobtrusive in his intercourse with his fellow-members, but was never disagreeable or unsocial when approached by anyone. The success which he attained as a lawyer, the excellent character which he bore among his people at home, and his high standing as a member of this and the last Congress are sufficient tributes to his worth and character.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

FEBRUARY 12, 1894.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. T. O. Towles, its Chief Clerk, conveyed to the Senate the intelligence of the death of GEORGE W. HOUK, a Representative from the State of Ohio, and communicated the resolutions of the House thereon; and the message also announced that the Speaker had appointed Mr. Hare, Mr. Springer, Mr. McKaig, Mr. Hulick, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Ritchie, and Mr. Ellis of Oregon as the committee on the part of the House provided for in the resolution.

Mr. BRICE. I ask that the resolutions of the House of Representatives be read.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the resolutions of the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, late a Representative from the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That a committee consisting of seven members of the House, with such members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to take order for superintending the funeral and to escort the remains of the deceased to their place of burial; and that the necessary expenses attending the execution of this order be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for properly carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate the foregoing resolutions to the Senate, and that as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House do now adjourn.

Mr. BRICE. Mr. President, I submit the resolutions which I send to the desk. I shall at a later day ask the Senate to fix a time at which fitting tribute may be paid to the memory of my deceased colleague in the other House.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The resolutions submitted by the Senator from Ohio will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of the Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, late a Representative from the State of Ohio

Resolved, That the Senate concur in the resolution of the House providing for the appointment of a committee of each House to escort the remains to the place of burial.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. Before putting the question on the adoption of the resolutions the Chair will state that, in anticipation of the passage of a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee to attend the funeral of the deceased, he appointed on Saturday last as members on the part of the Senate Mr. Brice, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Dubois, Mr. Hunton, and Mr. Martin. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions of the Senator from Ohio [Mr. Brice].

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to; and the Senate adjourned until Tuesday, February 13, 1894, at 12 o'clock m.

JULY 16, 1894.

Mr. BRICE. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the resolutions of the House of Representatives.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the resolutions of the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

July 14, 1894.

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of the Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, late a Representative from the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his eminent abilities as a distinguished public servant, the House, at the conclusion of these memorial proceedings, shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these proceedings to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. BRICE. Mr. President, I wish to state that at a subsequent time I shall ask the Senate to set aside a day when appropriate tribute may be paid to the memory of my late colleague in the House of Representatives. I move that the Senate adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and the Senate adjourned until Tuesday, July 17, 1894, at 12 o'clock m.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS.

MARCH 1, 1895.

Mr. BRICE. Mr. President, I desire to call up the resolutions of the House of Representatives concerning the death of my late colleague in that House, the Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the resolutions of the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

July 14, 1894.

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of the Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, late a Representative from the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his eminent abilities as a distinguished public servant, the House, at the conclusion of these memorial proceedings, shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these proceedings to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. BRICE. Mr. President, I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolutions submitted by the Senator from Ohio will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. GEORGE W. HOUK, late a Representative from the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That the business of the Senate be now suspended, in order that fitting tribute be paid to his memory.

Resolved, That as an additional mark of respect the Senate at the conclusion of these ceremonies do adjourn.

ADDRESS OF MR. BRICE.

MR. PRESIDENT: We are again called upon to mourn the departure of an esteemed and honored Representative in the other branch of Congress. It was my sad duty on a recent date to announce to this Chamber the death of GEORGE W. HOUK, a Representative from Ohio, who passed from the arena of public affairs with such startling suddenness that we yet feel the painful shock of that misfortune. On this occasion I desire to address the Senate on the resolution which has just been read from the desk, in the hope that I may add a tribute, inadequate though it may be, to his merits, his manhood, and his worth.

The active duties which throw into immediate association those who are called by their communities to represent them at Washington teach us much of our fellow-men which may have previously been overlooked or only faintly observed. Friendships are strengthened, social and political ties are made more binding, and a generous appreciation of one another is established by the fact that in public life there is an interdependence among those who are the servants of the people. This is especially true in the relations which the members of a State delegation hold to each other, and it is within this circle that the loss of one of the number is most keenly felt.

GEORGE W. HOUK has passed from us. It is a pleasure, Mr. President, to recall at this time the history of the deceased, who started in life with no exceptional advantages save those with which nature had provided him, and I will briefly recount some of the chief features of his career.

GEORGE W. HOUK was born September 25, 1825, in Cumberland County, Pa. Three years later the family moved to Dayton, Ohio, and thereafter that community became his permanent home. He was educated in the private schools and institutions of learning located at Dayton, and his excellence in his studies was such that at the early age of eighteen years he became an instructor in the common schools. After a successful experience in this vocation he abandoned teaching for the more ambitious profession of the law. He made the usual preparations, and was admitted to the bar in 1847, devoting himself to the practice with great ability.

The surroundings in this occupation naturally drew him into politics, and he gathered his first experience in legislative affairs by being elected to the Ohio house of representatives in 1851. He fully met the expectations of his constituents in this capacity, and he was returned to the legislature for a second term. His legal talents had been so fully demonstrated that he was selected for the important position of chairman of the judiciary committee, a high compliment, considering that he was quite a young man and there were many able lawyers among his older associates. The selection was not an unwise one, as the statutes of Ohio will yet show, many of the existing acts bearing evidence of his broad yet prudent and cautious treatment.

Upon the expiration of his second term in a legislative capacity Mr. HOUK resumed the practice of law at Dayton, entering into a partnership with Hon. John A. McMahon. This union of interests was so satisfactory that it remained unchanged for a period embracing two decades.

As a lawyer and legislator the public had thus become acquainted with Mr. HOUK's marked versatility and ability, and many distinctions came to him unasked and unsolicited. Twice he was called upon to represent his Democratic brethren at national conventions, the first occasion being the Charleston-Baltimore convention in 1860, and later he was made a delegate to the convention held in St. Louis in 1876. It has frequently been the case that the platforms at State Democratic conventions have been the result of his handiwork. On such occasions his good judgment and literary qualities were invariably valued and appreciated. His political views from the standpoint of his party were unmistakably sound, and he was also gifted with a wonderful facility of expression, which he had acquired in the broad fields where he had been led by his natural literary tastes. Under such circumstances his political associates cheerfully availed themselves of his services in the preparation of declarations of opinion and of future policies, a duty in the performance of which he made more evident the depth of his reasoning and the extent of his scholarship.

The confidence thus bestowed upon him was the outgrowth of his deserved reputation for integrity and manliness. Trickery and duplicity were strangers to his nature, and those who once surveyed the sincerity of his motives never had cause for a future doubt. His views in connection with political affairs were built on the broad and substantial basis of the public welfare, and were not founded in the wavering exigencies of private ambition.

Outside of the field of politics there were many distinguished honors conferred upon him. As a public speaker

he was frequently designated to address his fellow-citizens on formal occasions, his learning and his fluency combining to make him a most pleasing and effective orator, let the event be historical, memorial, or patriotic.

In 1890 a reapportionment of the Congressional district in Ohio afforded him the opportunity to become a candidate for the national House of Representatives. An active campaign resulted in his election. Returning at a mature age to the duties of a legislator, which he had abandoned in early life, he again fulfilled the confidence placed in him by the people of his district, and in 1892 accepted a re-nomination unanimously tendered, followed by his election to the present Congress. Unhappily the unsparing hand of death interfered to prevent the consummation of this trust.

Concerning his career in Congress it is needless for me to dwell at length. We are all so recently familiar with his presence here within this Capitol that it is hard to convince ourselves that he is gone. Brought prominently into the service of the country at large, he carried with him to Washington the splendid endowment of education, experience, and versatility of which he was possessed. Naturally these qualities could not go unappreciated within the body of which he was a part, and his ripe wisdom, combined with courteous personal manners, won for him the esteem which has been so eloquently voiced by his late associates since his death.

In the matter of committee work, which is most often the true test of a legislator's value to his country, he was pains-taking, industrious, and thorough. His reputation for clearness and penetration caused him to be placed at the

first stage of his Congressional career upon the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, a position where he would necessarily be called upon to deal with complicated and confusing questions. He was retained in this capacity when the same committee was subsequently reorganized. During the preparations for the World's Columbian Exposition he was on the committee having that enterprise in charge, and it was in the performance of duties within this sphere that he demonstrated the breadth of his patriotic character by devoting his splendid talents to assuring its success.

But there is one capacity in which he served his country that it gives me the most pleasure to recite. In the present Congress he acted as a member of the Committee on Pensions. His naturally patriotic impulses went unrestrained into the work of securing to deserving veterans the relief which the people of this great Republic desire that they shall have. In the hearts of these old soldiers there exist silent tributes more eloquent than those that we may utter. His life's history is an enduring monument that needs no embellishment by living hands.

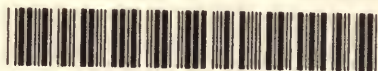
The silent clay of the deceased is insensible to eulogy or panegyric, but he has left to us the pleasant memory of his achievements throughout an honorable and distinguished life.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions submitted by the Senator from Ohio.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to; and the Senate adjourned until Saturday, March 2, 1895, at 11 o'clock a. m.

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